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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/545,188	04/07/2000	Katsuhisa Watanabe	862.C1887	1522

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LE V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/545,188

Applicant(s)

WATANABE, KATSUHISA

Examiner

Le Nguyen

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-11 and 13-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,8-11 and 13-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 6/1/2004.
2. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11 and 13-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 are independent claims; and, claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 18 and 20 were amended.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-11 and 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaka et al. ("Nagasaka") in view of Dev et al. ("Dev").

As per claim 1, Nagasaka teaches a network terminal apparatus comprising (figs. 2B, 2C, 3B, 3C, 23 and 30-32; col. 8, lines 64-67; col. 15, lines 32-56; col. 30, lines 29-61; col. 31, lines 20-38): management means for managing settings for each of a plurality of image processing functions, wherein the setting information indicates an identifier of each image processing function (figs. 30 and 32; col. 15, lines 32-56; *disclosed is a means for managing/monitoring the settings and various image processing functions, e.g. image input device name/scanner and output device name/printer*), and a plurality of image processing devices for implementing each image processing function (figs. 23, 30 and 32; col. 15, lines 46-56; col. 30, lines 29-61; col. 31, lines 20-38; *displayed in display 400 are a plurality of devices listed as icons in a menu for implementing/carrying out each function (functions such as copy, scan, etc.)*)

with each device corresponding to the settings information, e.g. printer 420 corresponds to settings information 470 and scanner 410 correspond to settings information 490, wherein an identifier of each function is indicated/displayed either as an image/icon or text); search means for acquiring information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to a network, based on the settings information managed by the management means (figs. 2B, 2C, 3B, 3C, 23 and 30-32; col. 8, lines 64-67; *device information is acquired and displayed*); icon display means for displaying icons each corresponding to each image processing function managed by the management means (figs. 23 and 30; *element 410 and 420 respectively*); and settings information display means for displaying at least a part of current settings information determined by the information acquired by the search means in regard to an image processing function corresponding to an icon selected by a user from among the icons displayed by the icon display means, in proximity of the selected icon (figs. 30-32; col. 15, lines 46-56; col. 30, lines 29-61; col. 31, lines 20-38; *e.g. pop-up window 470 displayed in proximity to 420 in window 400*). Nagasaki does not explicitly disclose search means for acquiring, *via a network*, information concerning each of various devices connected to the network. Dev teaches a network terminal apparatus comprising search means for acquiring, *via a network*, information concerning each of various devices connected to the network (figs. 7a-9; col. 2, line 47 through col. 3, line 14; col. 4, lines 41-51; col. 5, lines 9-23, 32-38 and 53-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Dev's teaching of a search means for acquiring, *via a network*, information concerning each of various

devices connected to the network to Nagasaka's teaching of a search means for acquiring information concerning each of various image processing devices connected to a network, based on the settings information managed by the management means in order to provide increased computing power, sharing of resources and communication between users.

As per claim 3, the modified Nagasaka teaches a network terminal apparatus wherein the plurality of image processing devices include at least a network scanner and a printer (Nagasaka: figs. 2B, 2C, 3B, 3C, 23, 30 and 32; col. 15, lines 32-56; *scanner and printer*).

As per claim 4, the modified Nagasaka teaches a network terminal apparatus wherein the settings information display means displays at least information relating to the type of image processing device or a network name of the image processing device as the settings information (Nagasaka: figs. 30 and 32; *type of image processing device or a network name of the image processing device as the settings information such as Scanner C, Scanner F, Digital Camera A, etc. are displayed in pop-up windows*).

Claims 6 and 11 are individually similar in scope to claim 1 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 8 and 13 are individually similar in scope to claim 3 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 9 and 14 are individually similar in scope to claim 4 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 10, 15, 16, 18 and 20 are individually similar in scope to claim 5 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 17, the modified teaching of Nagasaka and Walker teaches the network terminal apparatus wherein the designating means that designates the icon is a cursor and the at least a part of the current settings information is displayed by the settings information display means when the cursor is placed on the designated icon for the predetermined period of time (Walker: col. 4, lines 9-64).

Claims 19 and 21 are individually similar in scope to claim 17 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaka et al. ("Nagasaka") in view of Dev et al. ("Dev").

As per claim 5, although the modified Nagasaka teaches a network terminal apparatus comprising designating means for allowing the user to designate, in order to select, a desired icon from among the icons displayed by the icon display means wherein, when a desired icon is designated for a predetermined period of time by the designating means, the settings information display means displays, in proximity of the desired icon, a pop-up window for displaying settings information in regard to the image processing function corresponding to the desired icon (Nagasaka: col. 15, lines 34-56), Nagasaka does not explicitly disclose the information displayed in proximity to the icon to be a tool-tip. Official Notice is taken that the use of tool-tips to display information in proximity to an icon is well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include the use of tool-tips to display information in

proximity to an icon to the modified Nagasaki's teaching of the use of pop-up windows to display information in proximity to an icon to provide users with an implementation preference.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-6, 8-11 and 13-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Inquires

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(703) 305-7601** or **(571) 272-4068** after 10/20/2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LVN
Patent Examiner
October 16, 2004

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SENIOR PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100